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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01 MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02 (ISO) W

-----031833Z 045388 /50

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT PFOR TD US

SUBJ: PARM/MODE--ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE

ASSESSMENT--PARTS II AND III

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 0905

PARM PART II--RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

1. EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN HAS BOTH A PHYSICAL PLANT AND A PERSONNEL STRUCTURE WHICH TO SOME EXTENT ARE DISJOINTED COLLECTIONS OF ACCRETIONS OVER TIME. CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE EMBASSY TWO YEARS AGO THAT THE ONLY SOUND SOLUTION FOR THE CHANCERY WAS TO BUILD AN ENTIRELY NEW ONE HAVE BEEN RATIFIED BY A RECENT CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM, WHICH DETERMINED THAT EVEN ACUTE, SHORT-TERM SPACE AND SECURITY NEEDS COULD NOT LONGER BE MET THROUGH EXPENSIVE AND INADEQUATE CHANGES TO THE PRESENT BUILDING. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THIS PLANNING EFFORT BE SUPPORTED WITH AN FBO BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY-1979 CONSTRUCTION OF A CHANCERY FOR PORT OF SPAIN, WITH SIGNIFICANT FUNDS TO BE RECOVERED FROM SALE OF THE PRESENT PROPERTY.

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2. ON THE PERSONNEL SIDE, WE MUST FIND SOME WAY TO DEVOTE A LITTLE MORE OF OUR RESOURCES TO OUR HIGH PRIORITY ECONOMIC INTERESTS. A TWO-YEAR EFFORT TO OBTAIN A SINAGLE ADDITIONAL FSL PROFESSIONAL POSITION FOR COMMERCIAL WORK IS STILL LANGUISHING WHILE WE ABSORB NEW POSITIONS CREATED BY ORGANIZA-

TIONAL FOCUSSES IN WASHINGTON.

3. IT IS ALSO TIME TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE SCOPE OF SOME OF THE OTHER AGENCY OPERATIONS ATTACHED TO THIS MISSION AND PERHAPS REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THEM IN CONFORMITY TO CURRENT PRIORITIES AND EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES. DETAILS OF MY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE SPELLED OUT IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS MESSAGE AND IN A COMPANION ROGER CHANNEL TELEGRAM.

A. STATE

1. THE CONSULAR SECTION IS BY FAR THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF THE MISSION. SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED EFFICIENCY DURING THE LATTER HALF OF 1976 ENABLED US TO ANTICIPATE DEALING WITH THE WORKLOAD OF THE NEXT FEW YEARS WITHOUT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. THEN, HOWEVER, WE WERE FACED WITH THE NEW PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT. OUR NIV WORKLOAD, AFTER A STEADY CLIMB FOR MANY YEARS, STABILIZED IN 1976 AT THE 1975 LEVEL AND EVIDENCE THUS FAR IN 1977 SUPPORTS THAT TREND. WE HAVE THEREFORE PERHAPS REACHED A REASONABLY STABLE DEMAND LEVEL.

2, FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE IV ISSUANCES AND IV REGISTRATIONS HERE HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY DECLINING. IV WORKLOAD IS UP 40 PERCENT IN EARLY 1977, HOWEVER, AS WE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEAL WITH THE BACKLOG IN THE PIPELINE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE LAW AND COURT RULINGS. THUS, FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY-1977 AND CERTAINLY DURING FY-1978 WE HAVE MAJOR NEW IV WORK REQUIRE-MENTS TO MEET. FOUR TEMPORARY FSL POSITIONS WERE AUTHORIZED FOR THE EMBASSY EARLY THIS YEAR AND WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE TO BE MADE PERMANENT. THUS THEY ARE INCLUDED IN OUR FY-1977 PERSONNEL TABULATION. IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON IV REGISTRATIONS AND ISSUANCES WILL BE, BUT WE DO ANTICIPATE SOME REDUCTION IN WORKLOAD BY FY-1979. I THEREFORE AM RECOMMENDING THE REPROGRAMMING OF ONE FSL POSITION TO OUR MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORK AT THAT TIME IF THE LATTER POSITION CANNOT BE CREATED EARLIER. IF IT HAS BEEN, WE SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO REDUCE ONE CONSULAR POSITION. IF TRENDS ARE CLEARER BY NEXT YEAR'S PARM, I WOULD HOPE AT THAT TIME IT CAN BE DECIDED THAT THE FY-1979 FSL POSITIONS CAN BE TRIMMED BY TWO RATHER THAN JUST ONE.

- 3. A RECENT CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM VISIT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT PORT OF SPAIN BE CONNECTED TO THE VISA SYSTEM COMPUTER. THIS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL COST THE POST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$70,000 PER YEAR. WITH THESE ENHANCED MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND THE GREATER EFFICIENCY PERMITTED THEREBY, I FEEL IT IS DOUBLY INCOMBENT UPON US TO REDUCE SOME CONSULAR STAFFING BY FY-1979.
- 4. ON THE HIGH PRIORITY ECONOMIC/COMMERICAL SIDE, WE ARE HANDLING WELL PETROLEUM REPORTING, MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECT ANALYSIS AND ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL AMERICAN SUPPLIERS OF THE HIGH-VALUE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, TECH-

NOLOGY, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE PROJECTS. WE FEEL THERE ARESIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DO MORE, HOWEVER, ON SPOTTING COMMERICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LESS GLAMOROUS ACTIVIITIES AND ASSISTING ADDITIONAL AMERICAN FIRMS TO ENTER THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MARKET. TO DO THIS WE NEED AN ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL LOCAL (FSL). THIS WOULD ALSO PERMIT MORE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS BY THE SINGLE AMERICAN OFFICER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ECONOMIC/COMMERICAL WORK. SUCH ANALYSIS IS NEEDED TO ASSESS MORE CLEARLY WHTHER TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S LOFTY ECNOMIC GOALS ARE BEING FULFILLED AT A PACE WHICH CAN AVERT POLITICAL CHAOS AND EXTREMISM, AND TO GUIDE US DECISIONS REGARDING CARICOM, AID, ETC.

- 5. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND POLITICAL/LABOR SECTION ARE BOTH LEAN AND EFFECTIVE OFFICERS WHICH REQUIRE NO EXPANSION NOR CAN AFFORD REDUCTIONS.
- 6. OUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IS SMALL, BUT APPROPRIATE IN SIZE. IN PART III, HOWEVER, I HAVE INDICATED MY STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED REGIONAL BUDGET POSITION NOT BE FILLED. THERE ARE BOUND TO BE LESS COSTLY WAYS TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT ESTABLISHING ANOTHER OVERSEAS AMERICAN POSITION.

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B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS

1. THE SMALL REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE ATTACHED TO THIS MISSION IS LEAN AND COST EFFECTIVE NO CHANGES ARE RECOMMENDED.

2. USIS PORT OF SPAIN IS A VALUABLE ADJUNCT TO THIS MISSION. IN THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE SCOPE OF THE LIBRARY, HOWEVER, AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME, I BELIEVE, TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CEASE NORMAL LIBRARY READING ROOM OPERATIONS ENTIRELY AS OF POSSIBLY ONLY MARGINAL VALUE TO POST PRIORI-TIES AND TARGET GROUPS. I RECOMMEND THAT SUCH AN ASSESSMENT BE DEVELOPED BY THE PAO WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THE LIBRARY SPACE HAS ALREADY BEEN LARGELY REDISIGNED AS PROGRAM SPACE, AND THIS PROGRAMMING FUNCTION COULD BE EVEN FURTHER ENHANCED WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF USIS MANAGEMENT TO OVERSEE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES AS WELL. IF THIS ASSESS-MENT CONFIRMS THE INDICATED LOW PRIORITY OF THE LIBRARY OPERATION, THE SHIT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH A NET SAVING OF TWO FSL POSITIONS IN USIS DURING FY 1978. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. DEFENSE--THE DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY AGENCY HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ITS ONE AMERICAN POSITION IN PORT OF SPAIN. THE OTHER SIX AMERICAN PERSONNEL TABULATED UNDER DEFENSE ARE CIVLIAN CONTRACTORS OPERATING THE OMEGA LONG-RANGE NAVIGATIONAL STATION

HERE. CURRENT TREATY ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THIS STATION OPERATES EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1977. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE USG WILL SEEK NEGOTIATIONS TO EXTEND THE OPERATION OF THE STATION FOR SOME YEARS. IF THIS DECISION IS CONFIRMED AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, WE PRESUME THE SIX POSITIONS SHOWN WILL BE STABLE FOR FY-1979.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SIX MARINE SECURITY GUARD (MSG) POSITIONS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY BY FY-1979. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS ADAMANTLY DECLINED TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MSG UNIT, SO WE HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED SUCH A DETACHMENT IN OUR FY-1979 PROJECTIONS.

PART III--PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. REPROGRAMMING

WE NEED THE ADDITIONAL FSL PROFESSIONAL POSITION FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERICAL WORK NOW, CERTAINLY IN FY-1978. IF THE POSITION IS STILL NOT PROVIDED BY FY-1979, HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME THE MISSION HOPES TO REPROGRAM BY ELIMINATING ONE LOCAL POSITION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. CURRENT IV PRESSURES PRECLUDE SUCH REPROGRAMMING PRIOR TO FY-1979.

B. INCREASES/DECREASES

1. INCREASE--ONE FSL PROFESSIONAL POSITION TO CONCONFIDENTIAL

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CENTRATE ON COMMERICAL EXPANSION AND CONTINUITY OF CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY. FULLER JUSTIFICATION APPEARS IN ABOVE PARAGRAPHS AND IN THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL BUDGET SUBMISSIONS. (NOTE: THE PRESENT ECONOMIC OFFICER BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL FOR THE ADDITIONAL POSITION TO BE AN AMERICAN OFFICER RATHER THAN AN FSL PROFESSIONAL. BASED ON RELATIVE COSTS AND CONTINUITY FACTORS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DECIDED TO REAFFIRM THE EARLIER DECISION TO REQUEST THE FSL POSITION.)

- 2. DECREASES--IF THE ABOVE INCREASE IS GRANTED, BY FY-1979 WE PROPOSE TO DECREASE ONE FSL POSITION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION (OTHERWISE THIS WOULD BE A REPROGRAMMING).
- 3. THE EMBASSY HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT THE REGIONAL BUDGET POSITION (NO. 53-047) RECENTLY ESTABLISHED

AND RESIDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN BE ABOLISHED IMMEDIATELY. CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS CAN BE MADE IF THIS POSITION IS NOT FILLED. THE HIGH EXPENSE OF ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN POSITION OVERSEAS SEEMS INADEQUATELY JUSTIFIED IN THIS INSTANCE. THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH SUCH A POSITION EMERGED FROM THE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CARIBBEAN POSTS WERE HAVING WITH WASHINGTON FINANCE CENTER (WFC) BEFORE LAST YEAR. MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS CHANGES IN RECENT MONTHS AT WFC IN WASHINGTON HAVE, INSOFAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, LARGELY ELIMINATED THESE FORMERLY KNOTTY DIFFICULTIES. AS DESCRIBED TO US, THE REGIONAL BUDGET OFFICER WOULD HEAVILY ENGAGE IN TRAINING OF LOCAL BUDGET AND FISCAL SPECIALISTS. IN THE PAST WE HAVE FOUND THE ANNUAL REGIONAL SEMINARS WHICH OUR FSL SPECIALIST HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND, SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME TDY TRAVEL AND TRAINING AS REQUIRED AT ADJACENT POSTS (C.F. CARACAS), HAS MORE THAN MET ANY NEEDS CONFIDENTIAL

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WE CAN PERCEIVE ALONG THESE LINES. AN FSL FROM CURACAO HAS ALSO COME HERE TO BE TRAINED BY OUR OWN WELL-TRAINED LOCAL. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A MODEST INCREASE IN RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO AREA POSTS FOR THE TRAVEL AND TRINING OF THEIR FSL FISCAL SPECIALISTS WOULD BE FAR MORE COST EFFECTIVE THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW OVERSEAS AMERICAN POSITION.

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C. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, WE HEREBY DESIGNATE ONE AMERICAN AND ONE FSL POSITION FOR LOW PRIORITY AT THIS TIME:

- (1) AMERICAN POSITION #53-047: REGIONAL BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICER. WE ACTUALLY RECOMMEND THE ABOLISHMENT OF THIS POSITION IN FY-1977. SEE DISCUSSION IN PART III.B.3. ABOVE.
- (2) FSL POSITION #ADMIN-015: GARDNER AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. IF NECESSARY, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE GARDENING SERVICES CAN BE PERFORMED UNDER DIRECT PERSONAL HIRE BY THE AMBASSADOR AS IS THE CASE FOR ALL OTHER STAFF AT THE RESIDENCE.

D. MISSION STAFFINC CHARTS

FY 1977 (CURRENT) AMER AMER FSL FSL OFFS STAFF PROFES STAFF TOTALS

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EXECUTIVE 2 3 0 0 5

POLITICAL 1 0 0 1 2

ECON/COM'L 1 0 1 1 3

CONSULAR 6 0 1 14(1) 21

ADMIN (TOTAL) 5 0 5 10 20

COMMUNICATIONS 2 0 0 0

REGIONAL ZQ 0 0 0

USIS (2) 2 0 2 10(3) 14

AGRIC (4) 1 0 1 1 3

DOD (5) 7 0 0 0 7

OTHER (6) 1 0 0 0 1

TOTALS FY 77 26 3 10 37 76

- (1) INCLUDES 4 TEMPORARY POSITIONS SCHEDULED TO BE MADE PERMANENT
- (2) OFFICE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR USIS BRIDGETOWN
- (3) INCLUDES ONE POSITION IN BRIDGETOWN
- (4) OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR EASTERN CARIBBEAN REGION
- (5) INCLUDES 6 CIVILAIN CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AT OMEGA
- STATION AND 1 CIVILAIN PETROLEUM INSPECTOR
- (6) TAX ASVISOR PROVIDED TO AND FIANCED ENTIRELY BY

GOTT UNDER TECHNICAL SSISTANCE AGREEMENT

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FY 1979 (PROJECTED)

AMER AMER FSL FSL
OFFS STAFF PROFES STAFF TOTALS

STATE

EXECUTIVE 2 2 0 0 4

POLITICAL 1 0 0 1 2

ECON/COM'L 1 0 2 1

CONSULAR 5 0 1 13 19

ADMIN (TOTAL) 4 0 5 9 18

COMMUNICATIONS 2 0 0 0

USIS (1) 2 0 1 9(2) 12

AGRIC (4) 1 0 1 1 3

DOD (3) 6 0 0 0 Y

TOTALS FY 22 2 10 34 68

- (1) OFFICE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR USIS BRIDGETOWN
- (2) INCLUDES 1 POSITION IN BRIDGETOWN
- (3) CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AT OMEGA STATION
- $(4) \ OFFICE \ RESPONSIBLE \ FOR \ EASTERN \ CARIBBEAN \ REGION$

E. STAFFINC CONCLUSIONS

IF ALL OF THE INDICATED CHANGES ARE CONFIRMED BY FY-1979, WE WILL HAVE REDUCED TOTAL MISSION STAFFING BY EIGHT POSITIONS(FIVE AMERICAN AND THREE FSL), OR CONFIDENTIAL

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THEN PERCENT OF THE PRESENT BASE. THE MISSION SHOULD BE FULLY AS EFFECTIVE AS AT PRESENT, AND EVEN SOMEWHAT MORE SO WITH ENHANCED PERSONNEL RESOURCES DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMERICAL WORK. THESE SAVINGS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT OFFSET, OF COURSE, IF A MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT IS ASSIGNED, BUT THIS IS NOT PREDICTABLE AT PRESENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: POLICIES, PARM REPORT

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 03-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTO00906
Document Source: 10.00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770116-0081

Format: TEL

From: PORT OF SPAIN **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770493/aaaaddnn.tel

Line Count: 457 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ae4e01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS Reference: 77 PORT OF SPAIN 905

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2914729 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PARM/MODE--ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT--PARTS II AND III

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, TD, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae4e01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009